



Straight To The Point ...

President Bush: Free Trade Agreements Are "Pro-Growth, And They're Good For America"

*President Bush Participates In A Briefing With Mayors To Discuss Free Trade Agreements,
And Says "We Have A Good Opportunity To Get The Deal Done"*

"We Can Compete With Anybody, Anywhere, So Long As The Rules Are Fair"

President Bush: "The American people expect ... America to be treated fairly, and that's what these free trade agreements do." "[T]here are goods coming from their countries coming to our country relatively tariff free; our goods and services going to their country with a tariff on it. In other words, they're not treating us the way we're treating them. ... It certainly doesn't make any sense to say in a country like Colombia, your goods can come in our way, but our goods can't come your way – being treated the same way." (President George W. Bush, Remarks In Briefing With Mayors On Free Trade Agreements, The White House, 1/23/08)

- "One way we can also send a message that we want to continue to grow is to open up markets for U.S. products and services." "We were talking about these trade votes that are coming up in front of the Congress, and the importance of getting markets opened up for our workers and entrepreneurs. ... [B]y opening up markets, by having us treated fairly, we'll have 100 million new customers. And I like that opportunity for American workers and farmers and business people."
- "These [trade deals] are pro-growth, and they're good for America." "And so these mayors who are living close to the people understand that by opening up markets, businesses in their communities and workers in their communities will benefit ... We have a good opportunity to get the deal done. And I'm looking forward to working with Congress to get these packages passed."
- "[W]e need to take a fundamentally strong economy and help it deal with the uncertainties with a pro-growth package." "I talked to them about my desire to work with the Congress to get a stimulus package passed, one that's going to be robust enough to affect the economy, simple enough for people to understand it, and efficient enough to have an impact. And I'm confident that we can get something done."